



# TALK IT OVER

NLC RECOGNIZES BLACK HISTORY | PASTOR TROY STEIN

## KEY SCRIPTURES

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

**John 17:20-23 NIV**

"Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. <sup>20</sup> Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup> The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. <sup>22</sup> News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. <sup>23</sup> When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. <sup>24</sup> He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. <sup>25</sup> Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, <sup>26</sup> and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch."

**Acts 11:19-26 NIV**

**ALSO: Ephesians 3:1-6**

## START TALKING

Have you personally experienced prejudice or racism? (Please share)

## START THINKING

Pastor Troy explained that the Homogeneous Unit Principle states that churches grow fastest when they're made up of people from the same ethnic, economic, and educational background. What do you think about this principle?

There are two churches contrasted in the Book of Acts...the Jerusalem Church and the Antioch Church. The Jerusalem Church was mono-ethnic and the Antioch Church was multi-ethnic. Which church better represents heaven? Why?

READ the scriptures on the left. The example of the Antioch Church was:

Envisioned by Jesus / Described by Luke / Prescribed by Paul  
Discuss your thoughts.

## START PRAYING

Jesus, forgive us for any ounce of bigotry or prejudice we may have had. Help us to love as You loved. Help us to be the church You are coming back for. In Your powerful Name, Amen.

## START DOING

Embrace the beautiful cultural differences all around you. Pray for the love of Jesus to encapsulate your every thought.